



* CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPIRIT FILLED MINISTRY *

WORSHIPPING UNTIL DEATH

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We want to take our scripture text from **Hebrew 11:21**, **“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”**

Looking back at the book of Genesis, relative to this scripture verse here in Hebrews, some seventeen years have now passed since Jacob was brought down to Egypt to finish out the rest of his years with his son Joseph. Reading from our scripture text, and also from the book of Genesis, in chapters 48 and 49 we see the waning hours of the patriarch Jacob were filled with prophecies and predictions concerning the 12 tribes of Israel.

These prophecies would also be instrumental in bringing Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, into the world as the Savior of mankind. Jacob died when the last prophecies had been uttered, however, he did not die until they were issued from his mouth. It could be said of Jacob that he kept the faith like his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham, though he had his personal struggles, by faith he fulfilled the will of God. I want you to notice that while Jacob was dying he became a blessing in that he blessed both the sons of Joseph. Some of you reading this newsletter may be getting up in age, but I want to ask you a very simple question: Are you still blessing the Lord? The psalmist declared in **Psalm 34:1**, **“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth”**. No matter one’s age, we can always keep a spirit of praise within our mouths. I love the following verse found in **Psalm 34:3**, **“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together”**. Some of you reading this newsletter may be dealing with an enormous amount of

pain in your body, but do not let that pain keep you from worshipping and praising the King of glory! The psalmist proclaimed in **Psalm 103:1-3**, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases”**. Too often we forget that Jehovah is not only the God of our salvation, but also the God of our healing. You should start praising the Lord and magnifying His name for all His blessings toward you. Jacob was a blessing until his very death. He did not magnify his problems, but rather he magnified the Lord of glory. Jacob while he was dying, was not only a blessing but he was a worshipper of God. Are you still a worshipper today? Jacob was not a praiser of God, but Jacob was a worshipper of God. A praiser is someone who will praise God when something is said or something that has been done in the affirmative. A worshipper is someone who has experienced the divine power and presence of Christ deep within their hearts through salvation. Because of this born again experience, worship emanates from within their heart and spirit. Their worship simply flows from deep within their spirit. Because they have been touched by the Holy Ghost they want to worship and praise the King of glory! Regretfully, there is very little worship today because, there is no manifestation of the Holy Ghost. One of the great purposes of the Holy Ghost is to edify the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we read in **Nehemiah 8:10**, **“Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength”**. The Holy Ghost brings joy,

peace, and comfort to the child of God. Without the Spirit of God there can be no true worship and spiritual praise. We read in **John 4:22-24**, **“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”**. No man can truly worship God the Father without the Holy Ghost, for He is the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of God allows men to draw from the very presence of God. We read in **Isaiah 12:3**, **“Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation”**. Jesus Christ is a well of salvation springing up unto everlasting life. Jesus Christ speaking of himself declared in **John 7:37-38**, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”**. As you begin to worship the King of glory, living waters will flow from your innermost being. The truth is, many people are ashamed to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. We are admonished in **Psalm 29:2**, **“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”**. In other words, the child of God is to honor His name because His name is glorious, especially when worshipped in the house of the Lord. Maybe you can no longer go to the house of God, but you can still worship God just like Jacob did while he was leaning upon the top of his staff. No matter how you find yourself, and no matter your

circumstances, if the Holy Ghost abides in you then worship will come from within you. I trust the Holy Ghost does have a place of residence within your heart. As Paul the apostle stood before Felix he uttered a very powerful testimony concerning his worship to Jehovah. We read in **Acts 24:13-15**, "Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust". Do not allow anything to come between you and your worshipping of Christ our Lord. Jacob did all of his prophesying and worshipping while leaning upon his staff. Throughout the Word of God, we see many of the Patriarchs as they carried a rod or a staff throughout their pilgrimage. Moses carried a rod with him as well. We read in **Exodus 4:2**, "And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, a rod". There is much significance to the rod or staff that a patriarch would carry with them. As they carried their rod or their staff they carved all of the great happenings of their past experiences with Jehovah on their staff. Their rod or staff was a mere record of what God had done in their lives, which was in effect the Word and promises of God. This is significant because, while Jacob was prophesying and worshipping Jehovah, he was also leaning upon the top of his staff, which typifies the Word of God. Your worship and prophesying must also be founded upon the Word of God. That is the trouble with the modern church: their worship and their prophesying is false because it is not

founded upon the Word of God. True worship and true prophecy only comes from the Holy Ghost. Regretfully, there is a plethora of strange fire in the houses of God. The psalmist declared in **Psalm 23:4**, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me". Just as Jacob was leaning upon his staff and worshipping and prophesying, the psalmist David did the same. Both Jacob and David prophesied and worshipped Jehovah while trusting in their rod and staff, which was a type of the Word of God that also comforted them. This is why we know that the Word of God and the Holy Ghost edifies the child of God. The two are inseparable. For this reason, Jesus admonished us that we worship him in spirit and in truth. The spirit that Jesus speaks of is the Holy Spirit, and the truth is the Word of God. For that very reason worship is no longer manifest within many houses of God. There is a famine of the Word of God and a diminishing of the Holy Ghost. If the ministers would return to preaching the Word and allowing for the movement of the Holy Ghost, there would be great edification within the body of Christ. We receive so many letters from people discouraged with their churches. When they go to the houses of God for worship, there is no spirit, and there is a drought of God's Word. I want to encourage you today, you can have an old-fashioned Holy Ghost service right in your home. Jesus declared: Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them. How many times has the Holy Ghost touched you while working in the confines of your home or while driving down the highway? Yes, the Holy Ghost showed up unexpectedly and when He did you began to worship him and magnify

the King of glory. That is why it is important to be a worshipper of Christ. David said in **Psalm 22:3**, "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel". As we begin to worship the Lord, He will fill our praise and our worship. We worship a Holy God, thus, He is worthy of our praise and our worship. I am often reminded of the cherubim in **Revelation 4:8**, "And they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty which was, and is, and is to come". Just imagine the worship that is perpetuated around the throne of God day and night! The cherubim never rest, but they continually worship and praise the King of Glory day and night. As you walk this pilgrimage may you also daily worship and praise Jesus Christ who is truly King of kings and Lord of lords! Thank you so very much for your generous love and support for The Voice of Evangelism. As a minister, we want to encourage you to remain faithful, and be assured that we keep you in our prayers here at the ministry. Until next month, may you run your race and finish your course with exceeding joy.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford

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